



Before selective thinning

Selective Thinning/Removal

Enhancement Activity

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) offers an opportunity to promote improved plant management by rewarding or encouraging the use of selective thinning of cropped woodland and marshes to remove undesirable plant species and /or sustain the growth of the desired plant species. Undesirable plants include invasive species and plants with severe disease or pest problems where removal will help reduce further infestation.

The canopy covers should be managed to optimize the growth and health of the plants in each story. This enhancement activity will provide resource benefits beyond the minimum level prescribed by NRCS Conservation Practice Standards.

Benefits

- Increase plant health and vigor
- Decrease intensity of pest outbreaks
- Decrease the spread of disease
- Decrease use of pesticides
- Improve water quality

CSP Payments

You can earn payments by maintaining (benchmark activity) or implementing (new activity) selective thinning on your operation.



After selective thinning

Benchmark enhancement activities are those that are already in place or being performed at the time of signup. Benchmark enhancements receive payments in the first year of the CSP contract. Benchmark enhancements receive 120% of the enhancement payment rate in the first year. The payment declines each year as follows: 120%, 100%, 80%, 60%, 30%, 10%, 0%.

New enhancement activities are those that will be implemented or performed during the contract period. New enhancements are paid at a flat rate of 100% each year once they are established.

All CSP Enhancement earnings are subject to payment caps. Your actual payment will depend on your CSP Tier level and the number of acres enrolled.

Client's Acknowledgement Statement:

- ☐ I have elected to use the selective thinning plant management enhancement activity and understand the requirements of this activity.
- ☐ I certify that the benchmark activities listed below are already in place on my operation.
- ☐ I will establish the new activities listed below during my contract period. I understand that I will not receive a CSP enhancement payment until the activity is implemented.
- ☐ I agree to provide written documentation of the activity performed (use the attached worksheet or equivalent) to NRCS upon request.
- ☐ I agree to keep records of receipts for any materials, parts, equipment or services used to implement this activity.
- ☐ I understand that it is my responsibility to obtain all necessary permits and to comply with all laws, regulations and ordinances pertaining to the application of this activity.

Client's signature:

Date:

Enter the total number of acres of the enhancement activity that will be implemented or maintained under the CSP contract in the table below. Enhancement activities receiving financial assistance from other federal programs will not receive a CSP payment until they are no longer required in that contract.

Enhancement Activity	Benchmark Activity	New Activity
Total acres of cropped woodland or marsh being selectively thinned		

Reviewed by NRCS, signature:

date:

Selective Thinning/Removal

Documentation Worksheet

Use the following table for documentation and attach a plan map showing the location of the fields where selective thinning is being used in a croppd woodland or marsh.

Farm	Tract	Field	Crop	Acres
			Example: sugar maple, ginseng	

Client Certification

I certify that I have implemented selective thinning in the fields listed above.

signature:

date:

Reviewed by NRCS, signature:

date: